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Title: Material Supplying Hopper for Food Processing Apparatus

Applicant: Tadahiro KAJITANI, et al., Japan

Fig. 1 shows a first embodiment of the material supplying hopper according to the present invention. A material supplying hopper 3 includes a body 3a containing therein a sweet dough, the body 3a being provided with an opening 3h formed in a surface in contact with a molding belt 2, and a flattening member 6 supported inside the body 3a for flattening a sweet dough D supplied to the molding belt 2.

A lower front surface 3b of the body 3a is formed into an arcuate shape so as to facilitate a movement of the sweet dough D and smoothen the contact between the sweet dough D and the molding belt 2.

The flattening member 6 is supported by a shaft 5 fixed on the body 3a, and is resiliently urged against the molding belt 2 by a clockwise rotational force relative to the body 3a by a spring (not shown).

The flattening member 6 can charge the sweet dough D into molding holes 4 formed in the molding belt 2, and can flatten an upper surface of the sweet dough D supplied in the molding hole 4. The sweet dough D removed by the flattening member 6 moves rearward to the above and is circulated in the hopper 3. As shown in Fig. 1, it is preferable that the flattening member 6 be a vane-type member having an elliptic or paddle-like section whose angle can be adjusted

in accordance with a viscosity of the sweet dough D, and is capable of changing a vertical position.

The reference number 58 depicts a dough-cutting plate disposed inside a rear and lower part of the body 3a. The dough-cutting plate 58 in contact with the upper surface of the molding belt 2 cuts a dough without damaging the molding belt 2.

In the present invention, a molding member is composed of a mounting belt 1 made of steel and the molding belt 2 having a number of molding holes 4. The respective belts 2 and 4 are looped around rollers and synchronically go therearound in a direction indicated by the arrow C.